

Background on Rep. Slaughter's support for Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS)

Capital/Infrastructure Improvements:

Visiting Quarters

- In 2003, Rep. Slaughter tried to secure \$13 million to construct new Visiting Quarters (VQ) for Airmen in the FY04 Military Construction Appropriations bill.
- In January 2004, Rep. Slaughter met with Department of Defense Comptroller Zakheim and Western New York delegation, where they secured his commitment to support their FY06 budget request for the construction of the VQ. The President's FY06 budget did include the project. Rep. Slaughter sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee with the delegation requesting that this money remain in the final bill.

Fire and Crash Rescue Station

- In 2004, Rep. Slaughter helped to secure \$7.8 million for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Fire and Crash Rescue Station.

Military Entrance Processing Site

- In FY05, Rep. Slaughter helped to secure \$6.2 million for the Military Entrance Processing Site (MEPS) project.

Joint Use:

- Rep. Slaughter initiated dialogue with the United States Coast Guard to explore the possibility of permanently stationing several Coast Guard aircraft at the base to assist with their Homeland Security missions in the region. She led a delegation letter to Admiral Collins on this issue, and personally met with him to lobby for a permanent Coast Guard facility.

Visibility:

- In late 2002, Rep. Slaughter hosted Rep. Skelton, ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, at NFARS. She introduced him to Niagara Military Affairs Council (NIMAC) officials to see the strong community support for the base.
- Before the Base Realignment And Closure process started, Rep. Slaughter sent a letter with the delegation to Department of Defense officials asking them to visit the base.

Support for the Troops:

- In March 2003, Rep. Slaughter visited the Air Base to bid farewell to Air Force reservists from the 914th Airlift Wing as they departed for Iraq. In June, she again visited the Base to welcome the troops back home.
- Rep. Slaughter participated in the Welcome Home & Thank You Parade for area Military Service Personnel & Families.
- She attended the air show in 2004.